

What is claimed is:

- 1        1.        A system comprising:  
2        a mobile unit to:  
3                acquire information about a region near the mobile unit,  
4                determine a location of the mobile unit, and  
5                transmit an indication of the information and location;  
6        a client; and  
7        a remote server to communicate with the mobile unit to receive the indication from  
8        the mobile unit and communicate at least some of the information to the client.
- 2        2.        The system of claim 1, wherein the client furnishes a request to the remote  
3        server for specific criteria and the remote server filters the information based on the specific  
4        criteria before communicating said at least some of the information to the client.
- 2        3.        The system of claim 2, wherein criteria comprises one selected from a set  
3        consisting essentially of a time, a date, a position and an identifier identifying the mobile  
4        unit.
- 2        4.        The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit comprises a global positioning  
3        system receiver to determine the location of the mobile unit.
- 1        5.        The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit determines the location by  
2        using a triangulation technique based on locations of the cellular networks base stations.
- 1        6.        The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit acquires the information  
2        automatically pursuant to a set schedule.
- 1        7.        The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit acquires the information in  
2        response to a manual request.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the information comprises at least one of a  
2 picture, a sound, text, a weather condition, a brightness level and a noise level.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the information comprises location specific  
2 information.

1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the indication is communicated to the remote  
2 server via a wireless network.

1 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the remote server communicates with the  
2 client via a wired network.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit comprises:  
a memory storing configuration data.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the configuration data includes parameters  
that regulate the acquisition of data by the mobile unit.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the parameters regulate at least one of a  
nature of data acquisition and a frequency of data acquisition by the mobile unit.

1 15. The system of claim 12, wherein the configuration data includes parameters  
2 that regulate the transmission of the indication of the information and location by the mobile  
3 unit.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the parameters regulate at least one of a  
2 location of the remote server and a frequency at which the collected data should be  
3 synchronized with the remote server.

1 17. The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit comprises:  
2 a first memory to store first configuration data that is communicated from a remote  
3 source to the mobile unit; and  
4 a second memory to store second configuration data local to the mobile unit for use if  
5 the source cannot be accessed to retrieve the first configuration data.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein if the remote source cannot be accessed by  
2 the mobile unit, the mobile unit uses the second configuration data to regulate the acquisition  
3 of the information and the transmission of the indication of the information and the location  
4 until the source can be accessed.

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1 19. The system of claim 17, where the mobile unit compares the second  
2 configuration data with the first configuration data and if the first and second configurations  
3 are different, then mobile unit updates the second configuration data with the first  
4 configuration data.

2 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the mobile unit is adapted to receive a  
3 directive from the source to modify the first configuration data and the mobile unit modifies  
4 the first configuration data in response to third configuration data provided by the source.

2 21. The system in claim 1, wherein mobile unit is adapted to transmit the data  
3 automatically transferred pursuant to one of a pre-scheduled time, a timeout interval, or an  
amount of data that has been collected.

1 22. The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit is adapted to transmit the  
2 indication of the information and the location asynchronously after the acquisition of the  
3 information.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the mobile unit is adapted to base the  
2 transmission on at least one of a set time schedule, a number of data sets collected, a  
3 condition of the network, or an amount of data collected.

1           24.    The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit is adapted to attempt to  
2           establish connection with the server at regular intervals of time if a communication  
3           between the mobile unit and the server is disrupted, and the mobile unit transmit the  
4           information to the server when the server is available to communicate with the mobile  
5           unit.

1           25.    The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit is adapted to resume a  
2           communication with the server is at a point where communication broke off should the  
            communication be interrupted.

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2           26.    A system comprising:  
            mobile units, each mobile unit to:  
                acquire information about a different region near said each mobile unit,  
                determine a location of said each mobile unit, and  
                transmit an indication of the information and location;  
            a client; and  
            at least one remote server coupled to the client to:  
                communicate with the mobile units to receive the indications from the mobile  
            units; and  
                communicate at least some of the information to the client based on filtering  
            parameters.

1           27.    The system of claim 26, wherein  
2           the client furnishes at least some of the filtering parameters to said at least one remote  
3           server.

1           28.    The system of claim 26, wherein the filtering parameters comprise at least one  
2           of a mobile unit identifier, an acquisition time frame, a geographic location and moving  
3           information.

1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the moving information comprises at least  
2 one of a direction and a speed.

1 30. The system of claim 26, further comprising:  
2 a map server,  
3 wherein the remote server uses the indications of locations from the mobile units to  
4 plot the locations on street maps that it obtains from the map server.

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1 31. The system of claim 30, wherein the remote server presents at least one of the  
2 street maps to the client to permit the client to communicate a specific location to the remote  
3 server and the remote server communicates information from a mobile unit closest to the  
4 specific location to the client.

32. A method comprising:  
using a mobile unit to acquire information about a region near the mobile unit;  
using the mobile unit to determine a location of the mobile unit;  
communicating an indication of the information and location to a remote server; and  
using the remote server to communicate at least some of the information to a client.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising:  
furnishing a request to the remote server for specific criteria; and  
filtering the information based on the specific criteria before communicating the  
filtered information to the client.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein criteria comprises one selected from a set  
2 consisting essentially of a time, a date, a position and an identifier identifying the mobile  
3 unit.

1 35. The method of claim 32, wherein the communicating comprises:  
2 acquiring the information automatically pursuant to a set schedule.

1 36. The method of claim 32, wherein the communicating comprises:  
2 acquiring the information in response to a manual request.

1 37. The method of claim 32, wherein the information comprises one of a group  
2 consisting essentially of a pictures, a sounds, text, a weather condition, a brightness and a  
3 noise level.

1 38. A method of claim 32, wherein a size and quality of the indication of the  
2 information communicated to the remote server depends on parameters comprising at least  
3 one of a wireless channel quality, traffic conditions, wireless channel bit rate and a  
4 subscriber fee.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein the wireless channel quality is formed at  
2 least in part by at least one of a signal to noise ratio and a signal to interference ratio.

1 40. The method of claim 38, wherein the information comprises at least one of  
2 image data, audio data and video data.

1 41. A method usable with mobile units, comprising:  
2 for each mobile unit, using the mobile unit to acquire information about a different  
3 region near the mobile unit,  
4 for each mobile unit, associating a location of the mobile unit with the information  
5 acquired by the mobile unit;  
6 communicating indications of the information and the associated locations to a remote  
7 server;  
8 filtering the information based on filtering parameters provided by a client; and  
9 providing the filtered information to the client.

1 42. The method of claim 41, wherein  
2 the client furnishes at least some of the filtering parameters to said at least one remote  
3 server.

1 43. The method of claim 41, wherein the filtering parameters comprise at least  
2 one of a mobile unit identifier, an acquisition time frame, a geographic location and moving  
3 information.

1 44. The method of claim 41, wherein the moving information comprises at least  
2 one of a direction and a speed.

1 45. The method of claim 41, further comprising:  
2 displaying a street map; and  
3 identifying a location on the street map to develop at least one of the filtering  
4 parameters.

1 46. The method of claim 45, further comprising:  
2 displaying the mobile units on the street map, wherein the size of each mobile object  
3 that is displayed on the map depends on an accuracy of a location detection unit of said each  
4 mobile object.

1 47. The method of claim 45, wherein the location detection unit comprises:  
2 a GPS receiver.

1 48. The method of claim 46, wherein a size and a color of each mobile object that  
2 is displayed on the map depends on an age of information about said each mobile object.